



# Environmental Fact Sheet

## SWICH: EPA'S NATIONAL SOLID WASTE INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE

*EPA's Office of Solid Waste has recently begun operating a national Solid Waste Information Clearinghouse (SWICH). The mission of the SWICH is to serve as a central source for municipal solid waste information in the United States. This fact sheet describes the basic functions of SWICH. For additional information, you may wish to call the SWICH hotline at (800) 67-SWICH and ask for the SWICH User's Information Package.*

### **What is SWICH?**

#### **A Library System**

The library system includes: journals, reports, studies, proceedings, periodicals, case studies, curricula, films, and video tapes that focus on the following solid waste topics:

- education and training
- legislation and regulation
- public participation
- composting
- collection
- disposal
- special wastes
- source reduction
- waste combustion
- recycling
- planning
- transfer
- landfill gas

Many of the publications will be abstracted.

#### **An Electronic Bulletin Board (EBB)**

The EBB provides updated information on solid waste issues, including meeting and conference information, case studies, new technologies, new publications, expert contact information, and state and federal legislative and regulatory changes. The EBB is also the forum for the sharing of technical information with other SWICH users.

## **How can one access SWITCH?**

### **SWICH EBB**

With the EBB, you can access the SWITCH library and a host of other features. Anyone can access the SWITCH EBB using a computer, a modem (1200 or 2400 baud), and appropriate communications software. (If you don't have a modem and communications software, but would like to purchase them, the SWITCH is offering them for sale, along with a year of technical support.)

The SWITCH EBB is available for use 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To access SWITCH directly, set your communications software to 0 parity, 8 data bits, and 1 stop bit. Have your modem dial (301) 585-0204, and you will be connected to the SWITCH.

The first time you call the SWITCH EBB, you will need to answer some brief questions, and select and enter a unique password. You must remember your password for subsequent calls to the system. The information on the system is user friendly and menu driven.

### **SWICH Fax**

The fax is primarily designed for sending information requests to SWITCH staff and responding to SWITCH mailings and inquiries. The fax number is (301) 585-0297.

### **SWICH Hotline**

The primary uses for the hotline are to answer questions on log-in to the computer system, technical information requests for those who don't have a computer, modem, or fax, or for further information on other aspects of SWITCH. The hotline should only be used as a last resort for information requests by any user with computer access to the system. The number for the hotline is 800-67-SWICH.

### **On Site Access**

Local users of SWITCH can access the SWITCH library directly. A public computer work station is available for SWITCH users. Materials will not be lent from the library but they can be copied at a small charge per page. SWITCH is located in the offices of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) in Silver Spring, Maryland. On site users should call the SWITCH Hotline and check for hours of operation before visiting. SWITCH is operated by SWANA under a grant from EPA's Office of Solid Waste.